

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A central control station provided in a mobile communication system which includes a plurality of radio base stations, the central control station for controlling the radio base stations connected thereto, and an upper-level station connected to the central control station, comprising:

a demultiplexing unit which demultiplexes a signal supplied from the upper-level station to generate a plurality of sequences of signals, and multiplexes a plurality of sequences of signals received from the base stations into a single signal for transmission to the upper level station;

signal conversion units which are coupled to said demultiplexing unit and convert the respective demultiplexed sequences of signals into converted signals having a unified of a common transmission format, the common transmission format enabling compatibility between radio links and optical fiber links;

radio signal transmitting and receiving units and optical signal transmitting and receiving units which transmit and receive signals via said radio links [[or]] and said optical fiber links, said radio links and said optical fiber links ~~that are~~ provided for connection with the base stations; and

a distribution unit which is provided between said signal conversion units and units of said radio signal transmitting and receiving units and said optical signal transmitting and receiving units, and provides a communication connection for sending the converted signals having the ~~unified~~ common transmission format between a predetermined one of the base stations and the upper-level station.

Claim 2-10 (Canceled).

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The central control station as claimed in claim 1, wherein said signal conversion units include a modulation/demodulation unit.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The central control station as claimed in claim 1, wherein said signal conversion units include a modulation/demodulation unit and a radio frequency conversion unit.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The central control station as claimed in claim 1, wherein said signal conversion units include a base-band modulation/demodulation unit.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A central control station provided in a mobile communication system which includes a plurality of radio base stations, the central control station for controlling the radio base stations connected thereto and an upper-level station connected to the central control station, comprising:

a demultiplexing unit which demultiplexes a signal supplied from the upper-level station to generate a plurality of sequences of signals, and multiplexes a plurality of sequences of signals received from the base stations into a single signal for transmission to the upper level station;

means for converting the demultiplexed sequences of signals into converted signals ~~having a unified format compatible with both~~ of a common transmission format, the common transmission format enabling compatibility between radio links and optical fiber links;

radio signal transmitting and receiving units and optical signal transmitting and receiving units which transmit and receive signals via said radio links ~~or~~ and said optical fiber

links, said radio links and said optical fiber links ~~that are~~ provided for connection with the base stations; and

a distribution unit which is provided between said signal conversion means and units of said radio signal transmitting and receiving units and said optical signal transmitting and receiving units, and provides a communication connection for sending the converted signals having the ~~unified~~ common transmission format between a predetermined one of the base stations and the upper-level station.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The central control station as claimed in claim 14, wherein said signal conversion means include a modulation/demodulation unit.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The central control station as claimed in claim 14, wherein said signal conversion means include a modulation/demodulation unit and a radio frequency conversion unit.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The central control station as claimed in claim 14, wherein said signal conversion means include a base-band modulation/demodulation unit.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): A method for controlling radio base stations connected to an upper-level station in a mobile communication system, the method comprising the steps of:

demultiplexing a signal supplied from the upper-level station to generate a plurality of sequences of signals, and multiplexing a plurality of sequences of signals received from the base stations into a single signal for transmission to the upper level station;

converting the demultiplexed sequences of signals into converted signals having a ~~unified format compatible with both~~ common transmission format, the common transmission format enabling compatibility between radio links and optical fiber links;

transmitting and receiving signals via said radio links ~~or~~ and said optical fiber links, said radio links and said optical fiber links ~~that are~~ provided for connection with the base stations; and

providing a communication connection for sending the converted signals having the ~~unified~~ common transmission format between a predetermined one of the base stations and the upper-level station.